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(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU97/00087 (22) International Filing Date: 18 February 1997 (18.02.97) (30) Priority Data: PN 8157 19 February 1996 (19.02.96) AU (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): LANCASTER AUSTRALIA PTY. LIMITED [AU/AU]; Level 10, 275 George Street, Sydney, NSW 2000 (AU). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): LANCASTER, Roger [AU/AU]; Lancaster Black & Associates, Level 2, 2 Bridge Street, Sydney, NSW 2000 (AU). (74) Agent: F. B. RICE & CO.; 28A Montague Street, Balmain, NSW 2041 (AU).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: UNIVERSAL CONTRACT EXCHANGE (57) Abstract <p>This invention concerns trading in financial instruments, such as by use of a computer based cash management facility electronically linked to a computer based clearing house, and an automated real time screen trading system operated by the investor using standard personal computers linked by a communications network to a central clearing house computer. In particular, this invention concerns a contract exchange and protocol, and in another aspect it concerns a financial instrument. The contract exchange may provide direct entry to the market, and the opportunity to trade 24 hours a day, to potential investors from every office and home in the world. Trading need never cease on the Contract Exchange even with an external world catastrophe.</p>		